



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/681,221	02/27/2001	Roger C. Becerra	03-DV-7106	7007
23465	7590	04/21/2005	EXAMINER	
JOHN S. BEULICK C/O ARMSTRONG TEASDALE, LLP ONE METROPOLITAN SQUARE SUITE 2600 ST LOUIS, MO 63102-2740			FLETCHER, MARLON T	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		2837		
DATE MAILED: 04/21/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/681,221	BECERRA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Marlon T. Fletcher	2837	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 February 2005.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,2,4-11,31-35,40-44,46-48 and 54-65 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,2,4-11,31-35,40-44,46-48 and 54-65 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 2, 4-11, 31-35, 40-44, 46-48, 54-60, and 62-65 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bessler et al. (5,410,230) in view of Alford (5,220,255) and Kliman et al. (6,262,550).

As recited in claims 1 and 31, Bessler et al. disclose a method for interfacing an electric motor to a controller using an electrical interface circuit (308, inherent, wherein connection is provided), including a controller circuit (302) and a motor control circuit (310), the controller circuit including a transmission and a reception, the motor control circuit including a transmission and a reception, and the interface (inherent) electrically coupled to the controller and the electric motor as seen in figure 3, said method comprising the steps of: receiving a signal from the controller as discussed in column 4, lines 52-68; and outputting the signal to control the electric motor as discussed in column 5, lines 5-12; receiving a signal from the electric motor as discussed in column 5, lines 37-45; and transmitting the received signal from the electric motor to the controller as discussed in column 5, lines 51-59.

As recited in claim 2, Bessler et al. disclose a method, wherein said step of receiving a signal comprises the step of the controller circuit receiving electrical signals from the controller as seen in figure 3.

As recited in claims 5 and 35, Bessler et al. disclose a method, wherein said step of outputting the signal comprises the step of isolating a transmit signal to the electric motor as seen in figures 2 and 3.

As recited in claims 6, 7, 41, 43 Bessler et al. disclose a method, wherein said step of outputting the signal further comprises the step of interrogating the electric motor to acquire status and diagnostic information, wherein said step of interrogating the electric motor further comprises the step of acquiring at least one of an operating status, an operating speed, an operating torque, an input power consumption, an under-speed condition, and a time of operation above a desired power level from the electric motor as discussed in column 9, lines 16-59.

As recited in claims 8 and 42, Bessler et al. disclose the method, wherein said step of outputting the signal further comprises the step of commanding the electric motor to operate as at least one of a constant torque motor, a constant airflow motor, and a constant speed motor as disclosed in the abstract and as seen in figures 2 and 3.

As recited in claims 9 and 44, Bessler et al. disclose the method, wherein said step of outputting the signal comprises the step of controlling at least one of an operating profile, a speed limit, dynamic braking, and an inrush current of the electric motor as discussed in column 5, lines 45-65.

As recited in claim 10, Bessler et al. disclose the method, wherein said step of receiving a signal comprises the step of isolating a receive signal from the electric motor as seen in figures 2 and 3.

With respect to claims 46-48, and 59-60 Bessler et al. disclose bi-direction communication as seen in figures 2 and 3.

Bessler et al. do not directly disclose adjusting the level of the first signal nor does Bessler et al. disclose the use of RF or Infrared signals.

However, with respect to claims 1, 4, 31, Alford discloses a method of interfacing an electric motor to a controller using an electrical interface circuit (10), including connections to a controller (120) and motor control circuit (26), wherein the method comprises the steps of: adjusting a level of a first signal received from the controller (120) that is separate from a thermostat (22) configured to communicate a temperature to the controller (column 5, lines 30-34); outputting the second signal to control the motor (26) (column 5, lines 26-34); receiving a third signal from the motor and transmitting the signal to the controller as seen in figure 1, wherein the controller is in communication with the ECM (26) via interface (10).

As recited in claims 32-34, Alford discloses adjusting a voltage or power in communications with the controller and the electric motor in order to control a desired level (column 3, lines 46-52; column 4, lines 21-56).

As recited in claims 1, 11, 31, 40, 46-48, 54, 58, and 62, Kliman et al. a method, wherein said step of adjusting a level of the received signal comprises the step of converting an electrical signal from the controller and motor to at least one of an infrared

signal and an RF signal, wherein Kliman et al. disclose a communication link between the motor unit and the controller unit, wherein the communication can be one radio frequency signals as discussed in column 5, lines 16-28, wherein Kliman et al. disclose the interface, wherein the controller is coupled via the interface circuit to a microcontroller (15) located within the electric motor unit (12) as seen in figures 1 and 2.

As recited in claim 36-39, 54, Kliman et al. disclose the electrical interface, wherein said motor transmit control circuit further comprises a first and second optocoupler, which is inherent from the use of RF signals as discussed above, wherein the sensors for RF signals are usually optocoupler.

Limitations with respect to claims 55-58 and 63-65 are discussed above.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to utilize the teachings of Alford and Kliman et al. with the apparatus and method of Bessler et al., because Alford discloses the teachings of adjusting the received signal and Kliman et al. provide the use of RF signals, wherein signals can be wirelessly transmitted, thereby enhancing operation in the transmission of data from the motor to the controller, wherein the level of the signal can be controlled in the process.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 08/09/2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

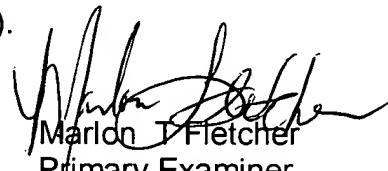
The applicant's remarks and amendments have been considered. The applicant has amended the claims to include that the controller is coupled to a microcontroller

located in the motor. This limitation is found in Kliman et al. as discussed above. Kliman et al. provide the conversion of the signal to an RF signal. The claims remain rejected.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marlon T. Fletcher whose telephone number is 571-272-2063. The examiner can normally be reached on M-W, F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Martin can be reached on 571-272-2107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Marlon T. Fletcher
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2837

MTF
April 18, 2005